

2018 Status of Self-Advocacy: Objectives, Expected Outcomes, & Issues to Resolve

Support Leadership Training

- Financially support at least four leadership training organizations to increase the number of self-advocates and family members who complete leadership trainings across the state. (To date, we've financially supported three. We were planning on supporting SILC's by helping to market, but there was some dissension surrounding the curriculum, and we tabled that support. In addition, one of three grantees is struggling with meeting basic expectations.)
- After completing leadership training, 80% of self-advocates and families will be better able to say what they want or what services or supports are important to them (In process with the two funded organizations)

Support the participation of people with I/DD on cross-disability boards and commissions, and civic and political life

- Connect at least 4 self-advocates to a leadership position or volunteer opportunity in the community (In process with our students)
- Educate at least 10 civic and political organizations on how to create inclusive boards/commissions to engage people with disabilities (In process through staff)
- Complete a participatory budgeting exercise in an underserved area of the state and which self-advocates and families participate (Did not occur due to only one proposal coming back)

Establish and promote the success of one or more collaborative, culturally competent self-advocacy coalitions that are led by individuals who have I/DD by providing funding, technical assistance, and supports

- Provide four self-advocacy organizations with technical assistance and help with outreach. (Note: We have met with these groups twice altogether. Their individual group meetings are posted on our web page, but their recruitment is still very low – most are significantly less than 10 members. There are seven self-advocacy groups across our state that meet for very different purposes. Only a couple are focused on policy. We have met with them twice altogether and asked them where they need assistance:

- They asked for a day-long training on grant writing, recruitment, organization administration, etc...
- They are asking for personnel help. I've asked those who are interested in student assistance to email me and we can help coordinate it, but none have.

Issues for Council consideration:

Self-advocacy has struggled for years. We need to determine what direction we want to move. Self-advocacy is significantly different than the independent living, or even, disability rights movement, but we are expected to support one statewide self-advocacy organization by year 5 by AIDD. With this goal in mind, we need to determine how we want to move forward. Yet, we know that transportation and scheduling continue to be a barrier. People want to socialize; not necessarily do they want to meet their legislators. With a history of low recruitment in Arizona. should self-advocacy organizations exist as they are operating now, or should they change how they operate? The following questions may help us determine how to move forward.

1. Should we provide them with the training they recently requested, although it's been done before? If so, who should we ask to do it? What are our expected outcomes, i.e., how do we know it's successful? And if we do this, should we continue to offer this support and see where it leads?
2. Like other Councils, should we formalize our role as the convener of the AZ Self-Advocacy movement? If so, how? Should we allocate part of a current position to supporting these organizations?
3. Should we instead connect these groups to other non-disability movements, so they are involved in community leadership?
4. Should we let the self-advocacy organizations operate as usual with the same level of support we have given, and instead focus our efforts on leadership trainings and connecting graduates to community leadership positions?
5. Should we support self-advocacy in other ways? For example, should we focus our attention on expanding supported decision-making and the opportunity to vote in our state to give people the opportunity to practice self-advocacy?

Where do we really want to go with self-advocacy?